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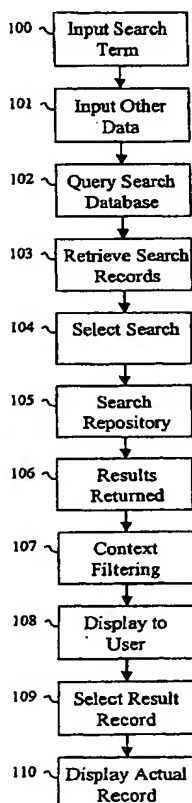
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DATABASE SEARCHING METHOD AND SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method and system is described for searching a plurality of information databases (2, 3, 4) for records related to an input search term. The method comprises selecting a group of related search terms containing the input search term from a search database (7) of terms arranged in predefined groups according to their relationship with one another. Each term is present within one or more of the information databases (2, 3, 4). A data repository (5) is searched for terms from the selected group, the data repository comprising selected data previously extracted from the records of each information database (2, 3, 4). The search identifies the corresponding records within the information databases which contain the terms within the selected group.

WO 03/083720 A3

WO 03/083720 A3



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 00 79436 A (SIMPLI COM ;STIBEL JEFFREY M (US)) 28 December 2000 (2000-12-28) page 4, line 1-13 page 9, line 17 -page 10, line 21 page 12, line 3-29 ---	1-25
A	US 2002/038308 A1 (CAPPI MICHAEL) 28 March 2002 (2002-03-28) page 1, paragraphs 9,10 page 2, paragraph 38 -page 4, paragraph 46 page 4, paragraph 53 page 12, paragraph 138 -page 13, paragraph 147 ---	1-25
A	WO 01 41002 A (LOCKHEED CORP) 7 June 2001 (2001-06-07) page 5, line 13 -page 6, line 26 page 12, line 13 -page 14, line 14 --- -/--	1-25



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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 1 143 349 A (ICONPARC GMBH) 10 October 2001 (2001-10-10) column 3, line 54 -column 6, line 5 -----	1-25

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ation on patent family members

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